The Golden Notebook

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

One evening, Baba and Mansoor sit on the balcony, watching the sunset.

Mansoor: Baba, today at school, my friend Ahmed told me that if I do something good, Allah gives me ten times the reward! Is that true?

Baba: Yes, my dear Mansoor. In fact, Allah rewards good deeds from ten times up to seven hundred times or even more! And do you know what happens when someone does a bad deed?

Mansoor: Umm... they get punished?

Baba: Not right away. Allah records only one bad deed, and if the person sincerely repents, Allah can forgive it completely.

Mansoor: Wow! Allah is so kind! But how does He keep track of all our deeds?

Baba: Imagine if you had a special golden notebook where everything you did was written down. Every time you helped someone, said kind words, or obeyed Allah, golden stars would fill your pages. But if you did something wrong, a small black dot would appear.

Mansoor: Oh no! What if I get too many black dots?

Baba: That's the beautiful part, my son. If you truly feel sorry and ask Allah for forgiveness, He erases the black dots! Your pages become clean again.

Mansoor: That means I should always try to fill my notebook with golden stars!

Baba: Exactly, Mansoor! And remember, Allah is always watching over us, loving us, and guiding us. If you ever make a mistake, just turn to Him with a sincere heart.

Mansoor: Thank you, Baba! From now on, I will try my best to fill my golden notebook with only golden stars!

Baba: That's my boy. Now, let's say a little dua together before Maghrib prayer.

(Mansoor and Baba join hands and pray, as the sun sets in the horizon.)